



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Policing Mechanisms and Electoral Violence in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

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The purpose of this study was to examine the Nigerian policing mechanism and its involvement in managing electoral violence, with a specific focus on the Fourth Republic elections and their impact on national security. Highlighting the history of violence, the study attributes the failure to bring offenders to justice to inefficiencies within the current centralised, bureaucratic, and biased policing system. The study adopts functionalist and structural theories, employing a qualitative analysis methodology through interviews with 45 selected stakeholders, using a purposive non-probability sampling method. This design facilitates drawing general conclusions from diverse relevant information sources, including online materials, textbooks, newspapers, and firsthand field observations. Insights from legal, security, and political experts are also used to enrich the study. The study offers practical recommendations, such as aligning security operations with established election rules and regulations and having the leadership of security organisations organise seminars and workshops to educate personnel about electoral laws and the sanctions for non-compliance. It also advocates for comprehensive policing reforms, capacity building, increased police independence and accountability, and addressing socioeconomic disparities, among other measures. Technological innovations, such as e-voting systems and international assistance, are recommended to improve the efficiency and transparency of the Independent National Electoral Commission. The study emphasises the need for police reforms, socioeconomic development, modern technology integration, and stringent anti-corruption measures to safeguard Nigeria's electoral processes. It proposes that victims of security agency misconduct should be adequately compensated to prevent the development of resentment that could threaten national security. In conclusion, implementing these recommendations will enhance policing mechanisms and combat electoral violence in Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, the main law enforcement body is the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), as stated in Section 214 of the 1999 NCE (as amended). Under the direction of the Inspector General of Police, the NPF is responsible for the protection and maintenance of peace, law, and order in all thirty-six (36) states

in Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), under Section 6 of the Police Act 2020 and Section 215(2) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended). The police are in charge of preventing and detecting crimes, apprehending criminals, and protecting lives and property. It functions under a regimental structure, adhering to a chain of command established by ranks and the provisions of the Police Act 2020.

The NPF has struggled to conduct its mandate effectively. A significant concern is the intentional breach of security to enable and condone electoral malpractices throughout Nigeria's election cycles. According to Adekeye and Chima (2022), the NPF has been criticised for what is seen as a lack of objectivity and for engaging in "partisan policing," which involves political interference in elections. This includes exhibiting a preference for certain political parties or candidates, thereby compromising the legitimacy and impartiality of electoral processes. Such actions foster a perception of injustice among the populace and diminish public confidence in the police's ability to execute their statutory duties.

The NPF's management of elections has significantly impacted public perception and trust in the political process, according to a study by the Ebert Foundation. During elections, only 26% of Nigerians report having faith in the police, citing issues with impartiality, corruption, and ineptitude. This low level of public trust has the potential to compromise the validity of election results, fuel social instability, and jeopardise national security (Albert et al., 2020).

The NPF has a reputation for being cruel, harsh, unfriendly, and corrupt, especially under the administrations of former President Muhammadu Buhari and the current leadership. This aligns with the negative perceptions of police forces held by citizens in countries like Kenya, where 92% of people believe that police officers act lawlessly, and in Burma, Iraq, Somalia, Afghanistan, Sudan, Russia, Pakistan, Haiti, and Mexico, where police officers are implicated in crimes and violations of human rights (Okechukwu, Chukwuka, and Chikwado 2019).

Pally (2022) stresses numerous cases of human rights violations by the Nigerian police have been documented by Amnesty International (AI) and Human Rights Watch (HRW). These abuses include extrajudicial executions, physical assaults, theft of ballot boxes, illegal detention, and unlawful arrests. Adejumo et al. (2022) claim that during elections, police officers abuse Nigerians by beating, humiliating, and detaining those who hold opposing political opinions. The police frequently display bias and serve as instruments of the ruling party and administration, rather than upholding neutrality and protecting democracy and the Constitution (Adebiyi and Oluwashina, 2021). Even in the presence of foreign observers, there is sufficient evidence to conclude that politicians have manipulated and perpetrated electoral fraud using Nigeria's police force to engineer or execute the fraud.

Political analysts such as Callahan et al. (2010) and Cohn-Postar (2021) argued that there is a constant pattern of electoral fraud, voter intimidation, election result falsification, and suppression of opponents or voters, as the police force is a major player in the coordination of these activities. Mene (2024) has voiced concerns about the disillusionment of Nigerians, especially the youth, who have suffered from police misconduct and the detrimental effects of transactional politics on their socio-economic well-being. According to Fasakin (2022), the police's shortcomings in this area have emboldened political thugs and electoral violators to commit electoral violence. This has hampered credible, transparent elections and the growth of Nigeria's democratic progress.

According to Obiam (2021) to safeguard the interests of the ruling class, the Nigerian government is progressively restricting civic space by strengthening the repressive capabilities of governmental organisations, such as the military and police, which frequently violate individuals' rights to vote and commit crimes against humanity. The state attempts to hold onto power by using legal and regulatory

means to justify voter suppression, like the strategy used by the Chinese police, which gives them broad powers to carry out orders from the government, resulting in multiple abuses of human rights.

Elections are the source of political power in a democratic society, which means that people have authority over all levels of government through the power of their votes in a free and fair election (Ali and Ali, 2022). However, due to the frequent bloodshed, political conflict, and electoral manipulation that have characterised Nigeria's elections, the NPF, as a component of the government's executive branch, is supposed to combat election-related chaos and uphold the rule of law. Even if the reality falls short, the police have played a critical role in election management since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999 by providing both material and human protection for the conduct of free, fair, and credible elections in Nigeria (Omilusi, 2016).

Aim and Objectives of the Study

This study examines the connection between election violence in Nigeria and the policing system. The study identifies the various challenges facing the Nigerian Police Force in combating electoral violations and makes suggestions for possible ways to reduce electoral violence in the future. The objectives of the study are outlined as follows:

To examine Nigeria's current policing system and its organisational structure.

To investigate the relationship between the current policing structure and the ongoing incidence of election violence in Nigeria.

To identify the barriers hindering effective policing or the reorganisation of the policing system.

To recommend tactical law enforcement actions to combat or at least reduce election-related violence.

Significance of the Study

The electoral process in Nigeria has been disrupted by irregularities such as vote-buying, ballot box theft, and violence. The global community is more concerned now than before due to the violence that occurred during the most recent elections in Nigeria. These concerns are exacerbated by claims that judicial and electoral laws are being compromised. Hence, the study offers insights for policymakers, legislatures, and the Independent National Electoral Commission to enact and formulate policies and strategies to combat electoral violence in Nigeria.

This article examines the effectiveness of Nigeria's existing police system, especially in combating electoral violations. There has been little evidence of electoral offenders being prosecuted, despite reports of violence and fatalities during recent elections. Therefore, the study provides a valuable guide or framework for the establishment of an Independent Electoral Offences Prosecution Commission to prosecute electoral offences and promote free, fair, and peaceful elections in Nigeria. It also proposes various reforms to Nigeria's Police Service Commission, such as the adoption of artificial intelligence and other modern technologies to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies in combating electoral offences in Nigeria.

The study's recommendations address some of the gaps identified in the Police Act 2020 that would help Nigeria's security and law enforcement agencies to improve their skills and enhance their efficiency in combating electoral fraud. This would promote credible, free, fair, transparent, and acceptable election processes in Nigeria, fostering democracy and civility between candidates, voters, and the Independent National Electoral Commission. Additionally, this study will benefit electorates, researchers, political stakeholders, and policymakers by contributing to the existing

literature in the field of political science on the need for Nigeria's security system to be revitalised to combat electoral violence and to promote the efficiency of the police during elections in Nigeria.

The Empirical Studies

The empirical review of policing mechanisms and electoral violence in Nigeria's Fourth Republic reveals how these issues manifest throughout the country. A study by Ukpong and Udoh (2023) highlights that the lack of credibility in elections leads to voter apathy, with many people believing their votes do not count. They also note that electoral malpractices often escalate into mass violence. For instance, during the 2011 Presidential Election, former president Muhammadu Buhari accused the opposition of preventing his party's supporters from voting in Southern Nigeria, which triggered post-election riots in Northern Nigeria, resulting in numerous deaths, including National Youth Service Corps members. The study also identifies a consistent pattern of violence in past elections, such as the killing of candidates, voter intimidation, and harassment of politicians, and opponent support. Additionally, it criticises security officers and the police for failing to protect voters, abusing human rights, and being complicit in election disruptions, violence, and vote rigging.

A study by Egobueze and Ojirika (2017) utilised a qualitative approach to analyse electoral violence and irregularities in Nigeria from 1999 to 2023. The study aimed to define and clarify the concepts of electoral violence, pluralist theory, relative deprivation theory, and realist theory, which served as its frameworks. It found that electoral violence increased between 1999 and 2019, with 1,360 incidents recorded during the six general elections held in this period. Notably, the 2011 general elections alone accounted for 400 incidents and 1,324 fatalities, the highest since the Fourth Republic began. The study calls for realistic Constitutional reviews and amendments to remove the immunity clause and introduce capital punishment for corruption and mismanagement of public resources. The lack of such constitutional provisions is seen as contributing to electoral and political violence in Nigeria. The authors suggest that civil society groups, intellectuals, journalists, and concerned citizens should advocate for a constitutional amendment to prevent instability in Nigeria's democratic system.

Okorie (2024) examined the role and challenges of the police in Nigeria's democratisation process, focusing on elections since 1999. The study found that endemic corruption, political control, inadequate training, and lack of equipment are major obstacles to the effective performance of the police. The paper concludes with recommendations for improving electoral security, including providing adequate welfare packages, fostering proper cooperation between the police and other security agencies, and supplying essential logistics.

Lambe and Mubarak (2023) examined the role of the police in election management in Nigeria, with a focus on Akwa Ibom State from 1999 to 2015. The study, based on desk research, found that the police often fail to perform their designated functions during elections, displaying partiality and loyalty to the ruling party or government. As a result, many Nigerians have lost confidence in the police, especially on election days.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Democracy and Elections

Elections are fundamental to democracy as they enable electorates to choose their leaders and facilitate a smooth transfer of power when conducted fairly (Kuehn, 2020). They serve as a means to assess the performance of officeholders against their campaign promises (James and C, 2022). However, existing studies often lack practical strategies for combating electoral violence in Nigeria, a gap this current research aims to address.

Electoral democracy, as defined by Ajayi and Reiner (2019), is a system where all citizens can vote for candidates seeking public office. Secret voting is crucial in this system as it promotes accountability, justice, freedom, and honesty. To maintain democratic integrity, elections must be free from threats, bribery, and undue influence (Musa, 2019). Although the existing literature highlights the significance of elections, it fails to propose effective strategies to prevent electoral violence in Nigeria, which this study seeks to fill.

Periodic elections are vital for democratic governance, fostering political engagement and giving citizens a say in their leadership (Bhalotra et al., 2017). These elections confer legitimacy and accountability by ensuring that leaders represent and protect their citizens' interests (Layton et al., 2021). Nevertheless, previous studies do not fully explore strategies for aligning policing mechanisms with international standards to prevent electoral violence, highlighting a gap that this current research intends to fill.

Election and Democracy in Nigeria

Since 1959, Nigeria has held elections with a variety of political parties participating. The Fourth Republic's electioneering processes began in 1999, following the transition to democracy after years of military rule. This period has seen numerous changes, including the implementation of new electoral laws, the adoption of technologies like electronic voting, and the establishment of independent electoral bodies such as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). However, since then, Nigeria has experienced significant violence, not only related to elections but also due to ethno-religious crises, insurgencies, and militancy (Obikaeze et al., 2023).

Nigeria's Election Challenges and Security Issues

Since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, the country has faced ongoing challenges with its electoral processes. The 1999 election, won by Olusegun Obasanjo of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), was marred by allegations of ballot stuffing, voter intimidation, and violence, leading to a lawsuit by the primary opposition candidate, Chief Samuel Oluyemi Falae. Subsequent elections, including those in 2003 and 2007, were similarly plagued by violence, electoral manipulation, and the involvement of security forces, undermining their credibility and fairness (Anyika and Ani, 2021).

The 2011 and 2015 elections continued this pattern, with widespread violence and allegations of electoral fraud. Goodluck Jonathan's election in 2011 saw significant post-election violence in Northern Nigeria, while Muhammadu Buhari's victory in 2015 was overshadowed by pre-election violence and reports of intimidation and manipulation. The 2019 and 2023 elections were no different, with both being marred by severe violence, police involvement, and numerous irregularities that further eroded public confidence in Nigeria's electoral process (Thompson et al., 2022).

The persistent role of security agencies, particularly the Nigeria Police, in these electoral issues has been a major concern. Accusations of partisanship, inadequate response to violence, and even direct involvement in electoral malpractices have highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to ensure that future elections are free, fair, peaceful, and credible.

The policing system may not have mechanisms in place for accountability and oversight, leading to instances of abuse and misconduct by police officers, which can contribute to malpractice (Akinyetun, 2022).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study employs a qualitative research design, utilising structured interviews to delve into the experiences and perspectives of key informants concerning Nigeria's Fourth Republic, policing, and electoral violence. Primary data were gathered through interviews, complemented by secondary data sourced from peer-reviewed journals and academic publications. The qualitative approach aims to elucidate participants' viewpoints on the policing mechanisms and electoral violence in Nigeria.

Population

The population of this study is made up of several Nigerian electoral stakeholders. Election body Adhoc staff (such as members of the National Youth Service Corps who serve as Election Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers) and other government officials involved in election duties and the prosecution of electoral offenders are among others: the Nigerian Police, politicians, eligible voters, INEC officials, NGOs, the Nigerian Bar Association, political parties, and local and international election observers.

Justifications for Selection

INEC: They offer a comprehensive and unique understanding of the electoral landscape, the role of the police, and potential areas for improvement in the electoral process (Kalagbor and Harry, 2021).

Nigeria Police: They provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges, strategies, and impact of policing during an election. They also contribute to a more nuanced analysis of the dynamics between law enforcement and the electoral process, informing potential improvements to enhance the effectiveness of the policing system (Muibu and Olawole, 2022).

Nigerian Bar Association: They provide a legal, human rights-focused, and advocacy-oriented perspective on the policing system and electoral violence. Their insights contribute to a more holistic understanding of the legal framework, human rights implications, and potential avenues for reform in the context of Nigeria's Fourth Republic.

NGOs: Engaging with these organisations provides valuable, unbiased insights into the dynamics of the policing system during elections. It can shed light on potential human rights abuses, instances of violence, and the broader impact on the rights of individuals involved in the electoral process (Mutie, 2022).

Party Leaders: Their experiences, perceptions, and recommendations contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities inherent in the relationship between political parties and law enforcement during elections. Their views can also contribute to understanding whether the policing system is perceived as impartial or influenced by political considerations.

Journalists: Their experiences, documentation, and insights contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the role of law enforcement in the electoral process and its impact on various stakeholders (Dauda, 2018).

Traditional leaders: They provide a community-centric, culturally informed, and locally grounded perspective on the policing system and electoral violence in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. Their experiences, roles, and insights contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the complex interplay between traditional institutions, law enforcement, and the electoral process. They actively work towards preventing conflicts and promoting peace within their domains. Understanding their role in preventing electoral violence and their expectations from the policing system can inform recommendations for improving conflict prevention strategies (Yingi and Hlungwani, 2023).

Electoral Adhoc Staff (NYSC Members): Deployment during Elections: The NYSC plays a crucial role

in the deployment of youth corps members to various parts of the country, including during elections. Corps members are often involved in election-related activities, such as serving as ad-hoc staff at polling units. Their experiences provide first-hand insights into the interactions between law enforcement, electoral processes, and potential instances of violence.

Sample Size

The number of observations used to approximate a certain population is referred to as the sample size (Rajput, Wang, and Chen, 2023). Based on variables such as population size and accessibility, researchers select sampling procedures (Obilor, 2023). A sample size of 45 key informants was chosen for this study from relevant organisations and stakeholders. These individuals were selected because of their expertise and ability to provide insightful comments. The purposive sampling technique was employed to ensure that those with the most relevant viewpoints and information were included. They were selected from the target population.

Data Collection Process

The study used both primary and secondary data collection methods to gather information. The primary data comprised unique information collected through face-to-face interviews and focus group discussions. This involved 45 participants: 31 in face-to-face sessions and 14 in focus group discussions. The interviews were conducted in English. The focus group discussions gathered personal experiences and perceptions from two groups of 7 participants each, adhering to recommended sizes for effective information elicitation (Saunders et al., 2019).

The secondary data was obtained from various peer-reviewed journals, internet sources, and literature from relevant institutions in Nigeria. These sources were carefully selected to align with topics related to policing in Nigeria, electoral processes, democracy, and the persistent issue of violence that has characterised the conduct of elections in Nigeria (Yayeh, 2021). This data provided a readily available source of factual information to complement the primary data. This approach ensured the accuracy, reliability, and credibility of the data, offering valuable insights into policing and electoral violence in Nigeria.

Search Strategy

The search strategy involved using specific keywords and phrases related to policing mechanisms and electoral violence in Nigeria. Combinations of keywords such as "Policing Mechanisms" and "Electoral Violence" were used. Boolean operators (AND, OR) were employed to refine or broaden the search. The search was limited to documents or literature published in English from 2018 to 2024 to ensure relevance and timeliness.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The researcher focused on participants who possessed a wealth of information and insights, making them particularly relevant and effective in achieving the study's objectives and providing pertinent answers. Consequently, inclusion and exclusion criteria were implemented to ensure a high-quality research outcome. Potential key informants who were willing to participate in the research and who had experience, knowledge, and expertise related to the research topic were included. The exclusion criteria involved the unwillingness of potential key informants to participate in the interview due to the sensitivity of their position, despite their qualifications, experience, knowledge, and expertise related to the research topic. These individuals were excluded from the research.

Data Analysis

Data analysis involved conducting a content analysis of the selected literature. Key themes, patterns, and insights were identified and categorised. The analysis focused on understanding the role of Nigeria's police force, its impact on electoral violence, and its effectiveness in managing the electoral process. The findings were synthesised to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter, and conclusions were drawn based on the evidence gathered from the interviews. This interactive approach ensured that the analysis was thorough, unbiased, and reflective of the current state of research in the field.

Categorization of the Participants

Table 1: Shows the number of participants and their different designations. To ensure anonymity, the participants' names were replaced in codes. The transcribe obtained from the interview was used verbatim to support the argument in line with the study.

Table 1: Participants

Designation	Number of participants	Code
INEC	5	IN
Traditional King	2	K
Lawyers	4	L
Non-governmental organisation	2	NG
National Youth Corp member (Group 1)	7	NYF1
National Youth Corp member (Group 2)	7	NYF2
Party chairman	2	PL
Party secretary	2	PS
Nigerian Police	10	P
Journalists	3	J

Source: Prepared by the author (2025)

Effectiveness of Policing System in Preventing Electoral Violence

According to Kola et al. (2020), violence is a common factor in the electoral process of Nigeria's Fourth Republic. Therefore, it is important to highlight the roles of security agencies, particularly the Nigeria Police, in the overall violence and vote irregularities during Nigeria's Fourth Republic. The police and other security services have faced numerous accusations of mistreating national institutions. As stated by Akpan and Reason (2019), officers and members of the police force have been accused of blatant partisanship, turning the force into the enforcement arm of the ruling party, being used to manipulate and sometimes thwart the will of the people, or generally acting in ways that contradict their constitutional mandate to maintain law and order, such as shielding those who engage in violence. In light of this, the study explores the effectiveness of the policing system in preventing electoral violence.

Table 2: Effectiveness of Policing System in Preventing Electoral Violence

Primary Subthemes	Categories	Number of Respondents	Respondents
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Inadequacies of the Policing System	Absence of a Functional Policing System Ineffectiveness in Violence Prevention Lack of Independence and Accountability Concerns about Political Interference	6	IN1, NY5F1, J3, L3, L4,
Improvement of Policing System	Training and Capacity Building Collaboration and Coordination Specialised Units and Rapid Response Teams. Community Engagement and Awareness Campaigns	7	IN2, IN3, IN4, IN5, L1, L2, J4
Calls for Reform within the policing system	Need for Improvement Advocacy for State Police Building Public Trust Implementation of Early Warning Systems	8	K1, NG1, PS1, P2, P8, P9, L3, L4

Source: Prepared by the author (2025)

The study identifies major shortcomings in Nigeria's policing during elections and suggests several improvement strategies and reforms to address these issues. The policing system is described as practically non-existent, with security officials unwilling to protect citizens, leaving voters and candidates vulnerable and compromising election integrity. Despite the presence of security forces, electoral violence increases, highlighting law enforcement's ineffectiveness in preventing such violence and eroding public trust. Political interference and a lack of accountability further undermine the police force's impartiality and effectiveness.

To address these inadequacies, several improvements have been suggested. Enhanced training and capacity-building initiatives are necessary to equip law enforcement personnel to handle electoral violence effectively. Collaboration between law enforcement agencies and stakeholders is crucial for a unified approach to election security. The establishment of specialised units and rapid response teams in hotspot areas would provide targeted responses to electoral violence. Additionally, community engagement and awareness campaigns are essential for building trust and cooperation between law enforcement and the public.

Challenges Militating against the Effective Policing in Nigeria

From the literature review, it was uncovered one of the most significant challenges facing Nigeria's electoral process is the issue of rigging. This often takes the form of voter intimidation and manipulation, with political thugs being used to intimidate voters and disrupt the voting process (Idowu 2022). Additionally, incumbency often plays a significant role in the electoral process, with incumbents using their positions of power to influence the outcome of elections (Frantzeskakis and Park, 2022). Considering this, it was critical to know the challenges and constraints the police encounter in safeguarding the election process. This study captures the diverse perspectives on the current state of Nigeria's policing system, especially challenges militating against effective policing in Nigeria.

Table 3: Structural and Resource Challenges

Primary Subthemes	Number	Participants
Structural and Resource Challenges	7	NG2, PL1, PL2, P1, P6, PS2,
Training and Professionalism	3	NY2F2, NY3F2, P3
Accountability and Corruption	2	PS2, P5
Legal and Governance Issues	2	P7, NY1F2
Perception and Legacy	3	K2, J1, J2

Source: Prepared by the author (2025)

The study highlights significant structural and resource challenges within Nigeria's policing system, particularly its lack of independence, accountability, and resources. Participants emphasize that inadequate funding, manpower, and equipment hinder the police's ability to prevent electoral violence. Political interference and a lack of accountability further compromise the neutrality and effectiveness of law enforcement agencies. Calls for urgent reforms underscore the need to address these systemic deficiencies, enhance accountability, and improve resource allocation. The study also stresses the importance of enhanced training and professionalism, noting that current efforts may be insufficient to address the specific challenges posed by electoral violence. Corruption within the police force, exacerbated by resource constraints, undermines public trust and law enforcement effectiveness. Legal and governance issues, such as the need for a stronger legal framework to ensure accountability and deter violence, are also highlighted. Participants advocate for localised policing to ensure cultural relevance and modernise the system to address historical legacies and current deficiencies. These insights underline the complex interplay of structural, resource, and governance issues affecting Nigeria's policing system and the critical need for comprehensive reforms to ensure effective and impartial law enforcement during elections.

Delimitation

The respondents may be biased in giving their agency a negative rating or criticising the government because the study focuses on national security, politics, and the evaluation of public institutions' ability to carry out their legislative mandates. However, by using non-governmental organizations as key informants, this has been resolved.

Limitation

The research focused solely on Nigeria's Fourth Republic, limiting its scope to this specific period, primarily because of the constraints posed by time and available resources. The Fourth Republic, being a crucial and significant time frame, serves as the contextual boundary within which the investigation takes place. This decision ensures that the study remains manageable and feasible, allowing for a more in-depth and focused analysis of the chosen subject matter.

CONCLUSION

This study examined the complex and important subject of policing practices and electoral violence in Nigeria. The researcher was able to study and comprehend the viewpoints and opinions of participants regarding these important societal issues by using a qualitative technique. The researcher managed the challenges of qualitative research throughout the study by using a structured framework to collect, arrange, and evaluate the data.

Realistic considerations led the researcher to decide to limit its attention because of the time and budget limitations. This method allowed the researcher to focus its efforts and explore the subject thoroughly within a manageable scope, assuring a full investigation of the selected timeframe.

In summary, addressing electoral violence in Nigeria necessitates an inclusive method that covers socio-economic development, technological innovation, and international cooperation. Such efforts are vital for fostering a peaceful and democratic electoral environment, ultimately contributing to the stability and progress of the nation. The study will make a significant contribution to the existing body of knowledge on political electoral violence in Nigeria. By revealing the root causes, consequences, and potential solutions, the study has provided valuable understandings that can inform policymaking, academic research, and practical interventions in the field. Moving forward, it is essential to build on these findings and continue working towards creating a more peaceful and democratic electoral environment for all Nigerians. Implementing the recommendations derived from our research can foster a conducive environment for free, fair, and peaceful elections, ultimately contributing to the stability and progress of the nation.

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